

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC: SISTER CITY PROGRAM

SUBJECT:PROPOSED PHILADELPHIA/ACCRA SISTER CITY AFFILIATION

1. SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) HAS INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT REV. LEON H. SULLIVAN, CHAIRMAN AND FOUNDER OF OPPORTUNITIES INDUSTRIALIZATION CENTERS (OIC) PHILADELPHIA, AND MR. VALFOULAYE DIALLO, INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR OF OIC, SENT LETTER TO COLONEL HABADAH, REGIONAL COMMISSIONER FOR GREATER ACCRA ON MARCH 3, 1975, REQUESTING THAT HE WRITE DIRECTLY TO MAYOR FRANK RIZZO OF PHILADELPHIA INDICATING ACCRA'S INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING A SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO CITIES. THERE HAS BEEN NO RESPONSE TO THE LETTER AND PHILADELPHIA COMMITTEE AND CITY OFFICIALS EXPRESS CONCERN RE ACCRA'S CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE PROGRAM.

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2. OFFICIALS AT OIC CONFUSED BECAUSE OF CONFLICTING STATEMENTS MADE BY GHANAIAI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND GHANAIAI EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON. ACCORDING TO OIC, COLONEL HABADAH AND FORMER GHANAIAI AMBASSADOR DEBRAH SUPPORTED AFFILIATION IN TALKS WITH THEM. THIS WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONFIRMED BY FORMER AMBASSADOR JOSEPH PALMER, WHO DIS-

CUSSED THE AFFILIATION WITH HABADAH AND DEBRAH DURING HIS VISIT TO GHANA. HOWEVER, MR. MOSES KWASI AGYEMAN,

MINISTER COUNSELOR OF THE GHANAIAI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, IN A LETTER TO MR. DIALLO OF OIC DATED MAY 1, 1975, STATED THAT IT WAS THE VIEW OF THE EMBASSY OF GHANA THAT THE PHILADELPHIA/ACCRA AFFILIATION QUOTE "SEEMS INAPPROPRIATE SINCE PHILADELPHIA IS A STATE CAPITAL AND ACCRA A NATIONAL CAPITAL". END QUOTE. ALSO, MR. R.A. BROBEY OF THE GHANAIAI EMBASSY TOLD MR. JERRY DREW, SCI ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, THAT QUOTE "ACCRA'S BUREAUCRACY AND RED TAPE WOULD NOT ALLOW FOR ACTIVE AFFILIATION AND THAT VERY LITTLE PROGRAMMING WOULD TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THE TWO CITIES". END QUOTE.

3. SCI HAS REQUESTED THE DEPARTMENT'S HELP IN DETERMINING WHETHER STATEMENTS QUOTED IN PARA 2 REPRESENT THE POSITION OF THE GHANAIAI GOVERNMENT.

4. PLEASE ADVISE. KISSINGER

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